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### JAPAN'S SUPERIORITY.

In view of the interest now taken in the Eastern middle, the following review of the situation by the San Francisco Evening Bulletin will be of interest:

When Japan began to adopt some of the ideas of Western civilization, the Chinese expressed the most profound contempt for the change. They have never ceased to take that view. Japan had laid aside the traditions of thousands of years. It had sent hundreds of its most promising young men to the United States and to Europe, to acquire knowledge of all the benefits of Western education and civilization. It began to train an army after European methods. War-ships were bought in Europe, and the best guns and small arms were procured. Experienced European military men were employed to instruct the Japanese soldiers in the modern arts of war. In short the armies of Japan in a few years were reorganized on a footing patterned after civilized Western nations, and the government took on the form of a constitutional monarchy.

During all these years the taunts and sneers of the Chinese have been unceasing. They would have nothing to do with Western civilization and progress. At a later day, however, the Chinese government did procure ships of war, guns and small arms from Europe. The example of Japan was followed to some extent. But the crudeness of the small arms for her soldiers was strikingly illustrated by the recent report that some thousands of Chinese soldiers had departed for Korea with bows and arrows to fight the Japanese, who presumably are armed with repeating rifles. The Chinese war ships, of European build, were defeated by the superior training and discipline of the Japanese navy. All these circumstances tell just now for Western civilization.

The Japanese are getting in their work. They have patiently suffered the taunts of the Chinese for the past ten years. They were held to be a weak nation in comparison with the 400,000,000, more or less, of Chinese. It was assumed, also, that the latter could overwhelm her comparatively small and isolated neighbor at any time. It could pour millions of men into those islands. This theory has been taken up to some extent abroad. The speculation has gone so far as to anticipate a possible future conflict which might involve western nations. It was maintained that the Chinese government had only to take account of its own resources to measure its power with any of the Western nations. If unduly provoked, it would send millions of men and all the forces of a great navy to fight out its battles with these nations. That was a very specious theory on paper. Probably no country ever understood the falseness of this theory better than Japan. That country could have avoided the present conflict by making some concessions. The one opportunity had come that had been looked for during many years. It is an attempt to employ the methods of Western civilization in a match against non-progressive Oriental civilization. The important question is, can Japan at once throw off the habits of centuries and adopt the unfamiliar systems of the modern nations? Forty millions of people are in some sense matched against four hundred millions of similar people, with Korea as a buffer. The latter country, having a population of eight or ten millions, has been even more stationary than China.

It is a notable circumstance that a considerable number of educated Chinese in this country take substantially the view that China, under the conditions, is engaged in an unequal contest. They affirm that nothing better could happen than that the contest should now be knocked out of China by a war that shall show her weakness in military science. The most effective way to accomplish this is by a series of battles that will drive Western ideas of progress into a country that has been nearly stationary for 4,000 years.

Japan has the natural defenses of an island nation. It has a greater population than Great Britain, with an area not greatly different. The latter maintains her place as the greatest effective sea power of the world. Japan starts in to maintain her position by means of its naval strength. It has challenged China and Korea to a trial of strength on the water. The sympathies

of most of the Western nations will naturally be with Japan, but England is in a position to side with China from interested motives. The causes that have brought on the conflict will assume secondary importance. The Koreans may also profit by this object lesson. When the war is over, there will probably be fewer taunts flung by the Chinese against Japanese progress. China will have learned a needed lesson.

### BUILD THE CANAL.

The New York Mail and Express in discussing the Nicaragua canal question, says: It will be little short of a national calamity if congress fails to take immediate and energetic action looking to the completion of the Nicaragua canal. The time has come when that great interoceanic highway must and will be built. We can no longer play a "dog in the manger" policy with regard to it. While it would be of incomparably greater value to us than to any other nation, both from a political and commercial standpoint, yet other nations are deeply interested, and will be greatly benefited by it. The commerce of the world demands and will have it. The irresistible pressure of events, the steady, all-powerful but often overlooked growth of world-wide industries and interests will force a way across that barrier between the Atlantic and Pacific and no nation can prevent it. There is not a first-class power in Europe whose government and people would hesitate an instant to construct, and hence control, that canal were the opportunity offered them. As a financial investment it would be more than safe; it would be brilliant, and as a political measure it would be of the greatest imaginable importance. The nation which controls the Nicaragua canal will have immense influence in, if not absolute control of, the politics of Central and South America.

The agony is over. The house of representatives, or, more properly speaking, the democratic part of it which two months ago carried Wilson out of the hall on their shoulders upon the passage of the bill bearing his name while they shouted themselves hoarse in his praise, has ignobly surrendered to the democratic senate. Not a vestige of the pride manifest upon the occasion of the passage of the Wilson bill which was itself a travesty upon the principles enunciated in the 1892 platform can now be found on the democratic side of the house which has executed a lively "right about" and swallowed the whole of the six hundred and thirty-four senate, or rather the trust, amendments which are now by the grace of a democratic president to become a law. The party which denounced trusts has thus deliberately and in all probability intentionally enacted legislation in the interest of trusts of every description. After the surrender the party passed sundry paltry bills placing sugar, iron ore, coal and barbed-wire on the free list, knowing at the time that it was done that they would never become a law. This act was a cheap clap-trap bid for virtue which their previous vote showed them to be utterly lacking.

This is the way a leading democrat looks at the surrender of his party upon the tariff bill. Bourke Cockran, of New York said in a speech in the house on Monday: "We are hopelessly discredited because of our cowardly and disgraceful surrender. Mr. Speaker, I desire to state here that, in my humble judgment, the measure which we are now asked to pass is a more obnoxious protective measure than the McKinley act which it is designed to supplant. If we are to swallow this whole obnoxious bill, then, in the name of fair play, in the name of property, in the name of decency, in the name of American liberty and America freedom, let the gentleman from West Virginia (Wilson), tell us to whom we are surrendering; tell us who they are who constitute the new force in the government to which we are compelled to pay tribute; tell us fully, without reserve, the character of the action which he asks us to take that we may judge the depth of infamy into which we are invited to descend."

It is said that the policy of the democrats will now be to demand a cessation of agitation of the tariff question. Inasmuch as they began agitating this question when the country was in a highly prosperous condition and have succeeded in bringing ruin and deprecation of value on every hand, they cannot expect a suffering people to tamely submit while they experiment with costly theories at the country's expense. Again after the passage of their long landed tariff bill they refuse to give the business of the country a chance to recuperate by adjusting itself to the changed conditions, but at once by the introduction of new blank cartridge bills threatened industries and business by giving notice of a continuation of hostilities. The American people have already suffered too much at the hands of the democratic party to accept its advice to keep hands off.

COMMENT on the following clipping from the London News is unnecessary. "Though a week has not yet elapsed since the schedule referring to wool and woolen manufactures passed the United States senate committee, and has yet to be considered by the house of representatives, and be referred to congress before it becomes law, the beneficial effects on our trade are already distinctly visible. The market for the raw article, which was depressed by the failures in the Bradford district at the end of the last series of colonial wool sales, has exhibited a more buoyant tone and a fair business has been done at prices which show a slight advance on the rates then ruling. In the manufacturing districts also a more hopeful feeling now exists, and the mistrust which always follows the announcement of commercial failures is rapidly disappearing."

The Polk County Observer says: Our exchanges are canvassing the possibilities of sending a new man to the United States Senate to succeed Hon. J. N. Dolph. While all the names suggested are those of good men, yet we think a mistake will be made if Senator Dolph is not re-elected, for the fight in June last was anything to beat Dolph. In that fight Senator Dolph triumphed over the demo-pop combine, and the reward should be his.

The president's one opportunity to pen a veto message which will reflect credit upon him is presented in the jumble tariff bill, but it is safe to gamble that a man who has written so many useless vetoes will not be found ready when by exercising the veto power he can do an infinite amount of good.

There will have to be a change in democratic platforms for awhile, as not even a democrat will have the gall to "point with pride" at their record after the sundry and various somersaults indulged in during the past months.

Fifty thousand dollars legislated to the sugar trust by the democratic congress. And this is tariff for revenue!

### AT NETARTS BAY.

Letter From a Party of Multino Campers Who Are Enjoying the Ocean

To THE EDITOR:—The coasting party that left Multino are comfortably situated one-fourth of a mile from the bay in a nice clean meadow. We landed here on the first of August, a little after noon. Our first camping place was at the old red school house in the Tualatin neighborhood, where we found an old well—cool and clear—with an oaken bucket ready to apply armstrong muscles and get water. The next day we reached Forest Grove, a little city situated in the midst of a fine farming country. Here we stopped travel Saturday evening and camped over Sunday on the grounds that had been prepared for the annual soldiers' encampment that was to be held on the first of the month. Bright and early Monday morning we rolled out of the city for the coast by way of the Wilson creek toll road. We reached the summit by noon. The charges at the toll gate were \$1.50 for a single buggy and \$2 for a team and wagon. This road is smooth and has easy grades except at one place which is very steep and requires close and careful driving. Some places along the route the road is so narrow that teams cannot pass, but by being careful one can avoid collision in such places. Now and then we heard of a buggy that was backed by hand over the grade so as to let teams pass. After one reaches the summit, or just before, there is one of the grandest views I ever beheld. Looking from an elevated position on the mountains out upon the beautiful golden-yellow grain fields speckled with the glitter of fine residences. This scene embraces the valley and prairies for about forty miles. All along this route one can see something to admire. One of the curiosities was a house in a stump. That is: a stump had been burned out inside, just leaving the sap so as to form a hollow cone about twenty feet high. Out of this some man of taste has provided himself a home complete with door and white knob. At a rough estimate the stump-house is twenty-feet in diameter. Today is a fine, pleasant, sunshiny morning, but cool and refreshing. We have had some rain twice; once in the night that dampened things considerably. Fishing is not so good as one would expect. It requires skill, patience and good tackle to get fish. The most and best kind captured thus far is the perch, or, as some call them, surf bass. One of the choice dishes among the coast relishes is the mussel, which, when fully developed, is more than six inches in length. This shell fish is very rich and is of a golden yellow. Their home is on the rocks to which they cling by a heavy beard, which requires some exertion to loosen them. One of the natural works of nature is the tunnel up near the light house. It is over 300 long and near the center it forks and forms another part. Just at the junction it forms a cathedral about forty feet high which is a grand work of nature indeed. This tunnel can only be reached at low tide. Near this tunnel is what they call the Sea Lion rocks, there being three or four large rocks about one-half mile from shore where the sea lions abound in great numbers. Here is where the sportmen and crack shots have a chance to try their marksmanship and fine guns. There was a party of men went out there last week and weighed one that killed a ton. They did not utilize the beast as they killed it just to have the name of killing a sea lion.

Clams and oysters are in abundance and they make a delicious soup and are nice tried like beefsteak, but are not quite so nice as the mussel. We have a large tree near our camp that measures sixty-three feet in circumference. This tree has sprouting roots which cover about one-eighth of an acre, and inside is a large cavity in which we hang up our harness, wash-tub and various other articles which we wish to protect from any torrent of rain that might descend. We have mail three times a week and it requires about four or five days to get a letter from home. Our party are all gaining in flesh and we eat three square meals a day and generally can't wait till the next meal is prepared.

NETARTS, Aug. 9, 1904. C. E. KNOTT.

**Harmony Rootings.**  
HARMONY, Aug. 11.—Rev. Parker of the United Brethren church concluded a quarterly meeting here last Sunday.

Edna Marr, who has been staying in Portland has arrived home.

Mr. Kilton's children are afflicted with the whooping cough.

John Davis has finished the cutting of ten acres of brush. Mr. Kilton has started about five acres.

Wood cutting has become quite an industry here. Several hundred cords are being hauled to Portland this season.

**Salmon Spray.**  
SALMON, Aug. 11.—The camp ground at this place presents a very lively appearance now, there being about twenty camps in one group. Mr. Keeman and party from Portland added their presence to the camp yesterday. A dance was enjoyed by the young folks of the camp at Mr. McIntyre's last Friday night. A good time was had. One will be had at Upper Salmon tonight. Mrs. Y. Smith is improving very slowly but is as yet able to sit up but a few minutes at a time.

**Stafford Strippings.**  
STAFFORD, Aug. 13.—Turner & Kruse have finished threshing their wheat crop and have begun harvesting their oats. They threshed from the shock.

Most of the farmers have their winter grain in stack or mow.

Mrs. Agnes Gage has gone to Portland for a few day's visit with relatives.

The distillery at Matthew Athey's is in operation.

Sam Mayer has been doing some slashing; the lay of the country is almost unknown until the brush is cleared away.

Mary and Annie, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. C. Weisborn, arrived a couple of weeks ago from Kansas.

Mrs. Jennie Melcher has had a window put in her barn and intends having a flue put up so they can live there the coming winter.

Fifteen cords of dry fir wood have been delivered at the school house, and from all appearances the district is preparing for a cold, wet winter.

Zack Ellington is finishing the inside of his house and making it look quite cozy.

Samuel Mosier has gone to Bethany to visit for a few days.

Oscar Larson broke the frame that the sickle slides in to his binder Tuesday and was delayed somewhat in harvesting by having to go to Portland for repairs.

**Eagle Creek Etchings.**  
EAGLE CREEK, Aug. 14.—The picnic at Currinsville was a grand success.

The road work in this precinct is postponed till after harvest.

Dr. Smith and wife have gone to Portland to remain a week.

The house of L. Rivers is nearly completed.

Uncle Richard Bradley has returned from his visit in Eastern Oregon.

Chas. Foster has purchased a new syph wheel and is breaking it to ride.

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